WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   In a computer network, a method comprising,

providing a contacts schema, the contacts schema having contacts-related fields arranged into a content document with defined structures for the fields;

receiving a data access request directed to contact information, the request including associated identity information; and

in response to the data access request, manipulating at least one set of data in a logical contacts document that includes data therein according to the associated identity information, each set of data in the logical contacts document structured to correspond to a field in the content document.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein manipulating at least one set of data comprises reading data from at least one field in the logical contacts document.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein manipulating at least one set of data comprises writing data to at least one field in the logical contacts document.

4.   In a computer network, a method comprising,

receiving a request to retrieve contacts data, the request including associated identity information;

reading from a data store to obtain contacts data based on the associated identity information;

constructing a contacts document including at least part of the data, the document

arranged according to a defined schema for contacts data; and

returning the document in response to the request.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein the schema includes at least one defined field

for extending the schema.